(d) As the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development and has so far not been enacted, it is not possible to estimate per capita/per day income generated through the opportunities of employment provided under the Bill.

Purifying sea water into drinking water

2453. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that certain State Government have set up plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been taken to finance those plants by giving suitable assistance to State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL. DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Some of the State Governments have setup plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water. As rural drinking water supply is a State subject and Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), action plans to set-up and finance these plants are drawn up by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) 15% of ARWSP funds allocated to the State Governments are earmarked for tackling quality problems, including salinity, by setting up desalination plants both for brackish water and conversion of sea water into potable water. The funding pattern between the Centre and the States is in the ratio of 75:25. Full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling quality problems.

Marketing of rural products

2454. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop the rural products marketing;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating the amount that would be invested in the sector; and

(c) the number of jobs that would be generated as a result thereof, year-wise?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Government is not contemplating to develop a separate agency for developing the marketing of rural products. The Ministry of Rural Development provides assistance to States for marketing of SGSY products, which also includes assistance for organizing Regional Saras fairs.

(c) Question does not arise.

Pending proposal for land development and irrigation for BPL in MP

†2455. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding a special project of land development and irrigation for the families living below poverty line in three development blocks of Sivani district has been sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to Central Government and the same is pending for approval so far; and

(b) if so', by when it would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received a Special Project namely, "Land Development and Irrigation for Families Living Below Poverty Line in Three Development Blocks of Sivani District of Madhya Pradesh" with a total cost of Rs. 15.41 crore. The Ministry has already sanctioned 18 Special Projects to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 156.21 crores. A comprehensive review of on-going projects will be made by the Ministry before approving new projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.